

CLAIMS:

1. A communication network comprising
 - a plurality of devices, each equipped with
 - a device operating circuit,
 - a communication interface for receiving command signals,
 - 5 - a control circuit coupled between the device operating circuit and the communication interface for controlling the operation of the device operating circuit part in dependency of said command signals,
 - a control unit for generating control signals to control the operation of the devices,
 - 10 - a master for receiving the control signals and for generating command signals and transferring the command signals to the communication interfaces of the devices,
- characterized in that each device is equipped with a master and the communication network comprises activating means for activating one of the masters and for activating another
- 15 master in case the active master fails.
2. Communication network as in claim 1, wherein the control unit is a wireless remote control unit.
- 20 3. Communication network as in claim 1 or 2, wherein each master is equipped with a transceiver for wireless communication between the control unit and the master and between the master and the communication interfaces of the devices.
4. Communication network as in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein in a group formed by a
- 25 part, but preferably all, of the devices the device operating circuit comprises a ballast circuit for operating a lamp.
5. Communication network as in claim 4, wherein each device in the group is comprised in a luminaire.

6. Communication network as in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein each master is equipped with beacon means for transmitting periodical signals when it is active and with detecting means for detecting the periodical signals transmitted by an active master.

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7. Communication network as in claim 6, wherein the detecting means comprise a timer circuit for timing the time lapse during which the periodical signal is absent.

8. Communication network as in claim 6 or 7, wherein each of the masters
10 comprised in the network is equipped with means for activating itself in case the active master fails.

9. Communication network as in claim 7 and 8, wherein the means for activating
itself become active when the time lapse during which the periodical signal is absent is
15 longer than a predetermined time lapse.

10. A method for operating a communication network comprising
- a plurality of devices, each equipped with
- a device operating circuit,
20 - a communication interface for receiving command signals,
- a control circuit coupled between the device operating circuit and the communication interface for controlling the operation of the device operating circuit part in dependency of said command signals,
- a control unit for generating control signals to control the operation of the
25 devices,
- a master for receiving the control signals and for generating command signals and transferring the command signals to the communication interfaces of the devices,
characterized by equipping each device with a master and activating one of the masters and
30 activating another master in case the active master fails.